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HERB CAEN



What In the World

WELL, THEY TRIED to keep it a secret, to the point of fibbing to this gullible, but the truth is that those 14 (or was it 16?) Union Pacific VIPs traveled in super luxury when they came to Oakland last wkend to have a look at Western Pacific, the line they hope to acquire. The 14 or 16 husbands and wives, equally divided, occupied a 14-car three-engine special train that included domed dining room and lounge car, a gym, barber shop and beauty salon, and attentive service from a crew of 65. That's LIVING! It is also rumored around Oakland that one of the wives actually isn't — and is that another reason for Top Secrecy? The train and its elegant passengers, including Averell Harriman, is now on its way back to Omaha, UP's headquarters, leaving an awed crowd of Oaklanders in its wake. "They spent more on strawberries," gasped a Western Pacific flunky, "than we spent last year on our sales staff!"

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IN ONE EAR: Blood is thicker than water, wherefore a nepotism scandal (oh brother!) is about to explode in a major S.F. agency ... I wouldn't want this info to fall into the hands of the Russians but Adm. Stansfield Turner, head of the CIA, had his warmup pants on backwards while playing tennis at John Gardiner's in Scottsdale. "They're wearing out at the knees," he explained, "and I didn't want anybody to notice." Anybody did, proving again that CIA means Caught In the Act ... It's love in bloom for Dr. Robert Alioto, the school boss! He and Domenica Deuell will be married in June ... One would have to assume that the Palace Hotel management would like the Cafe du Moulin Rouge to move elsewhere. How else explain a raise in rent from \$1875 a month to \$11,040 — an almost unbelievable 600 per cent increase? Another reason could be that the Palace is spending a ton to remodel its old Tudor Room and Minute Chef (dreadful name) into a restaurant called Lotta's Fountain, opening around May 1.

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